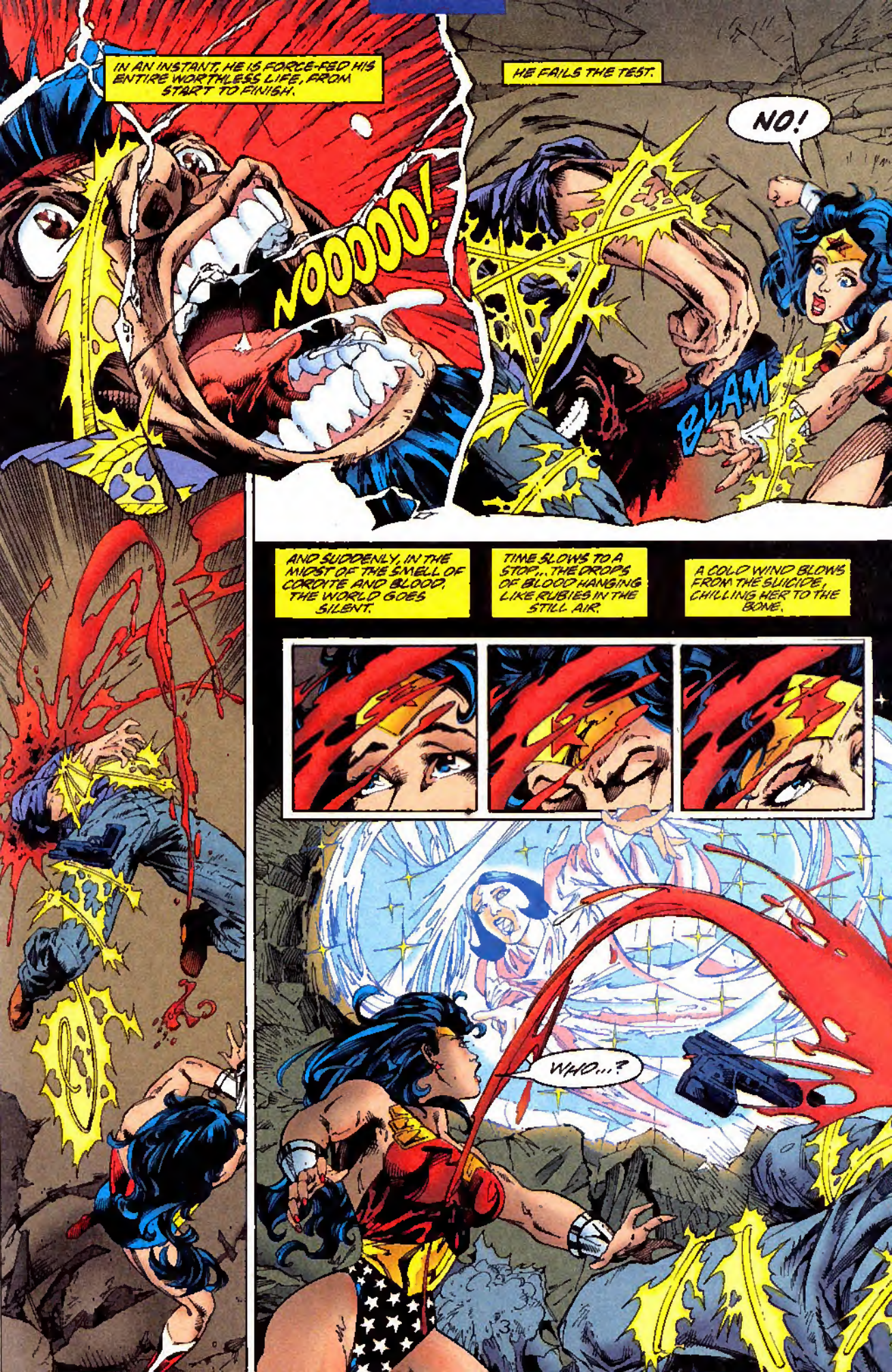
DC
NO.7
$2.95 US
$4.25 CAN
1998
WONDER WOMAN
ANNUAL
48 PAGES!
GHOSTS
DIRECT SALES
LUKE • BATTLE • McCARTHY • TANGHAL

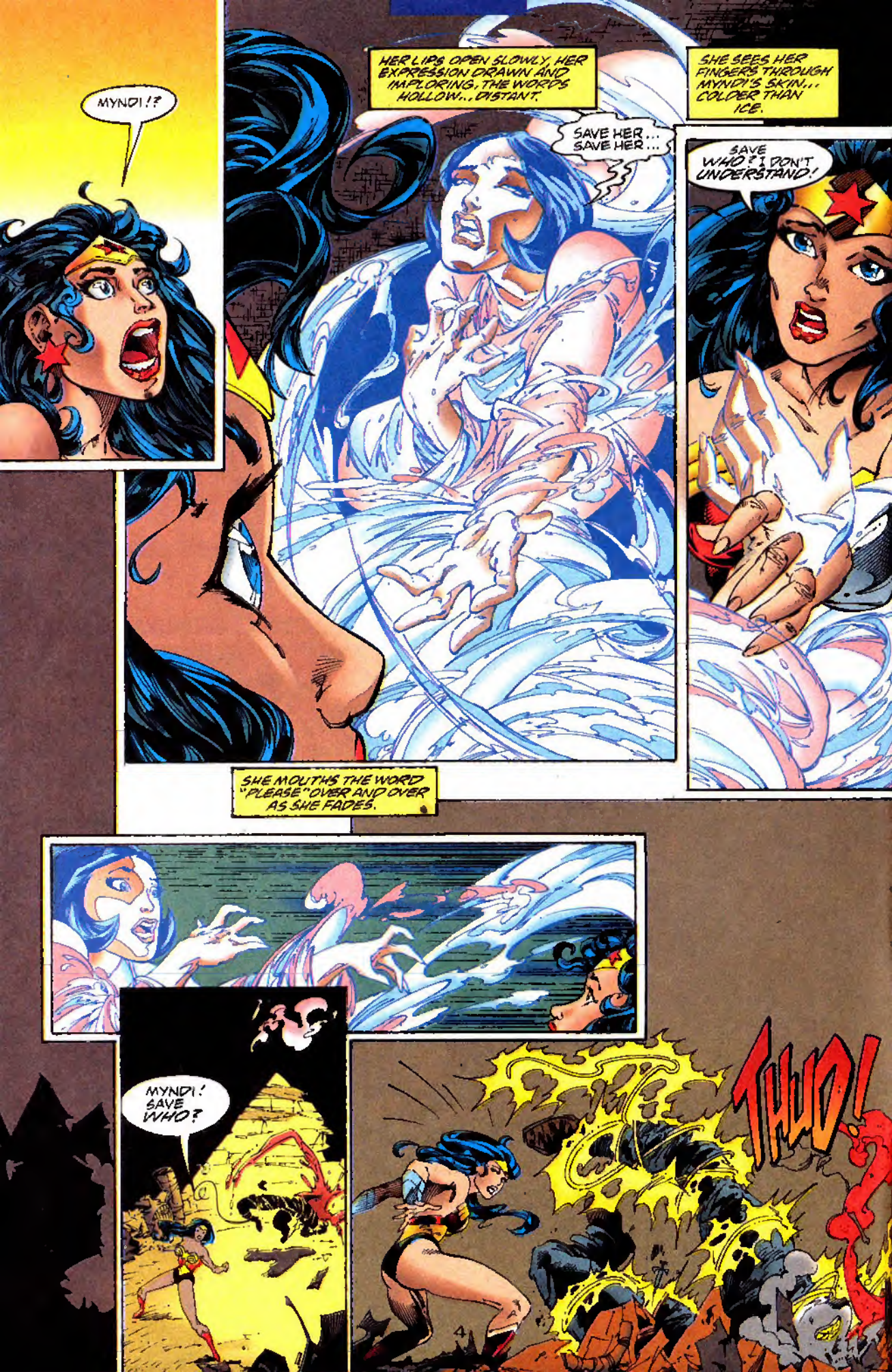
WONDER WOMAN ANNUAL 7. September, 1998. Published by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1998 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper.
Printed in Canada.

DC Comics
A Division of Warner Bros.–A Time Warner Entertainment Company

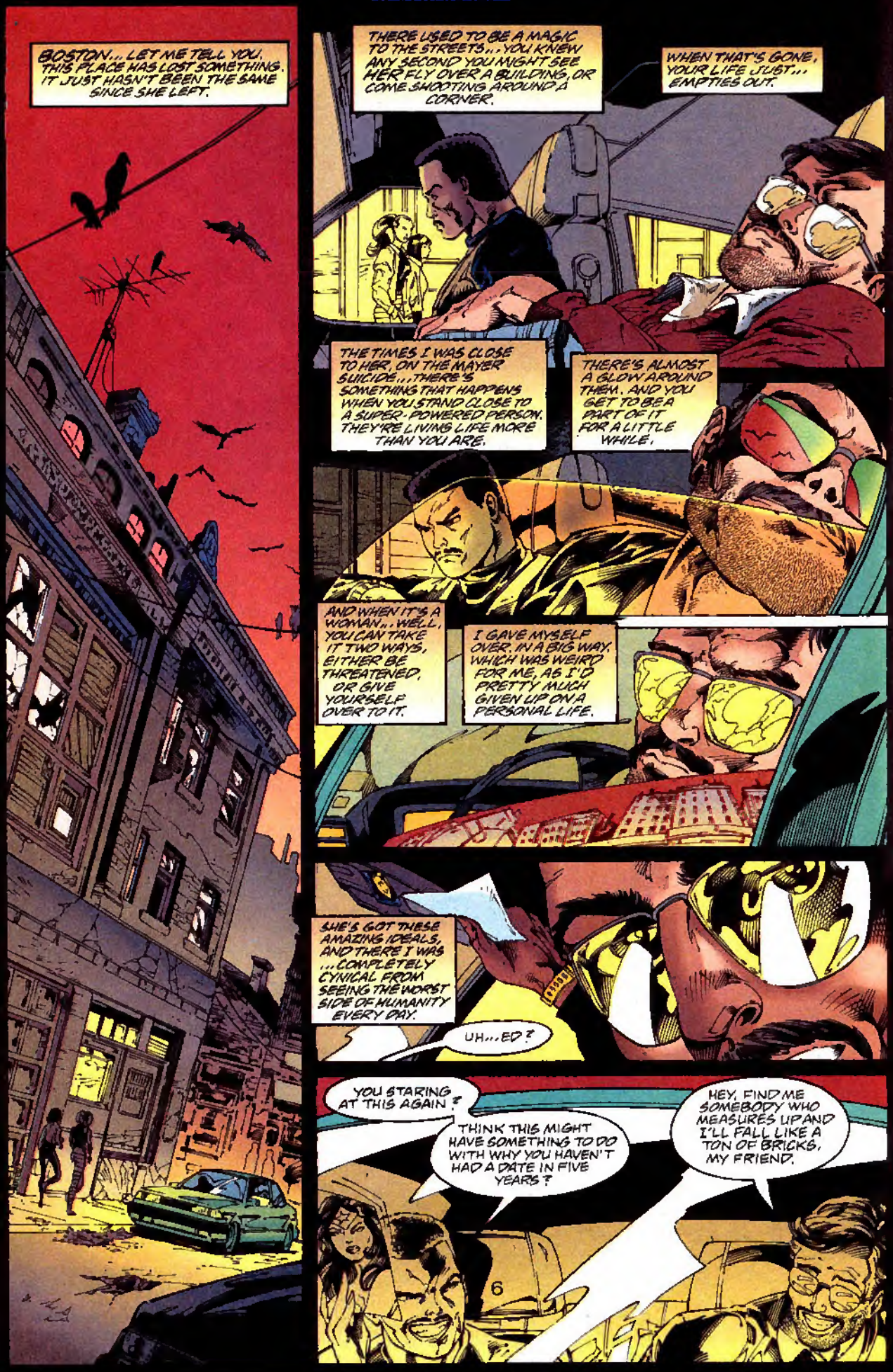
· JENETTE KAHN, President & Editor-in-Chief · PAUL LEVITZ, Executive Vice President & Publisher · RICHARD BRUNING, VP-Creative Director ·
· PATRICK CALDON, VP-Finance & Operations · DOROTHY CROUCH, VP-Licensed Publishing · TERRI CUNNINGHAM, VP-Managing Editor ·
· JOEL EHRLICH, Senior VP-Advertising & Promotions · LILLIAN LASERSON, VP & General Counsel · BOB ROZAKIS, Executive Director-Production ·

SHE LETS THEM SEE THE COSTUME... THE BRIGHT COLORS OF THEIR FLAG A MOCKING REMINDER OF THE LAW THEY'VE BROKEN TONIGHT. SHE'S USED TO IT.
...THE FIRST LEER AS THEY SEE HER BODY CHANGING TO PANIC AS THEY REALIZE WHO THEY'VE BEEN SHOOTING AT.
BUT TONIGHT SHE'S TIRED OF IT... ONE TOO MANY BULLETS... ANOTHER LITTLE MAN EMPOWERED BY A GUN... THE VERY THING SHE'S TRIED SO LONG TO END IN THIS VIOLENT WORLD OF MAN.
IN ANGER AND DISGUST SHE DOES SOMETHING SHE HASN'T DONE BEFORE.
I DON'T JUST WANT YOU IN JAIL THIS TIME!
I WANT THE WHOLE TRUTH! I WANT YOU TO SEE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF...
RIGHT DOWN TO THE ROOTS OF YOUR SHALLOW LITTLE SOUL!


IN AN INSTANT, HE IS FORCE-FED HIS ENTIRE WORTHLESS LIFE, FROM START TO FINISH.
NOOOOO!
HE FAILS THE TEST.
NO!
BLAM
AND SUDDENLY, IN THE MIDST OF THE SMELL OF CORDITE AND BLOOD, THE WORLD GOES SILENT.
TIME SLOWS TO A STOP... THE DROPS OF BLOOD HANGING LIKE RUBIES IN THE STILL AIR.
A COLD WIND BLOWS FROM THE SUICIDE, CHILLING HER TO THE BONE.
WHO...?

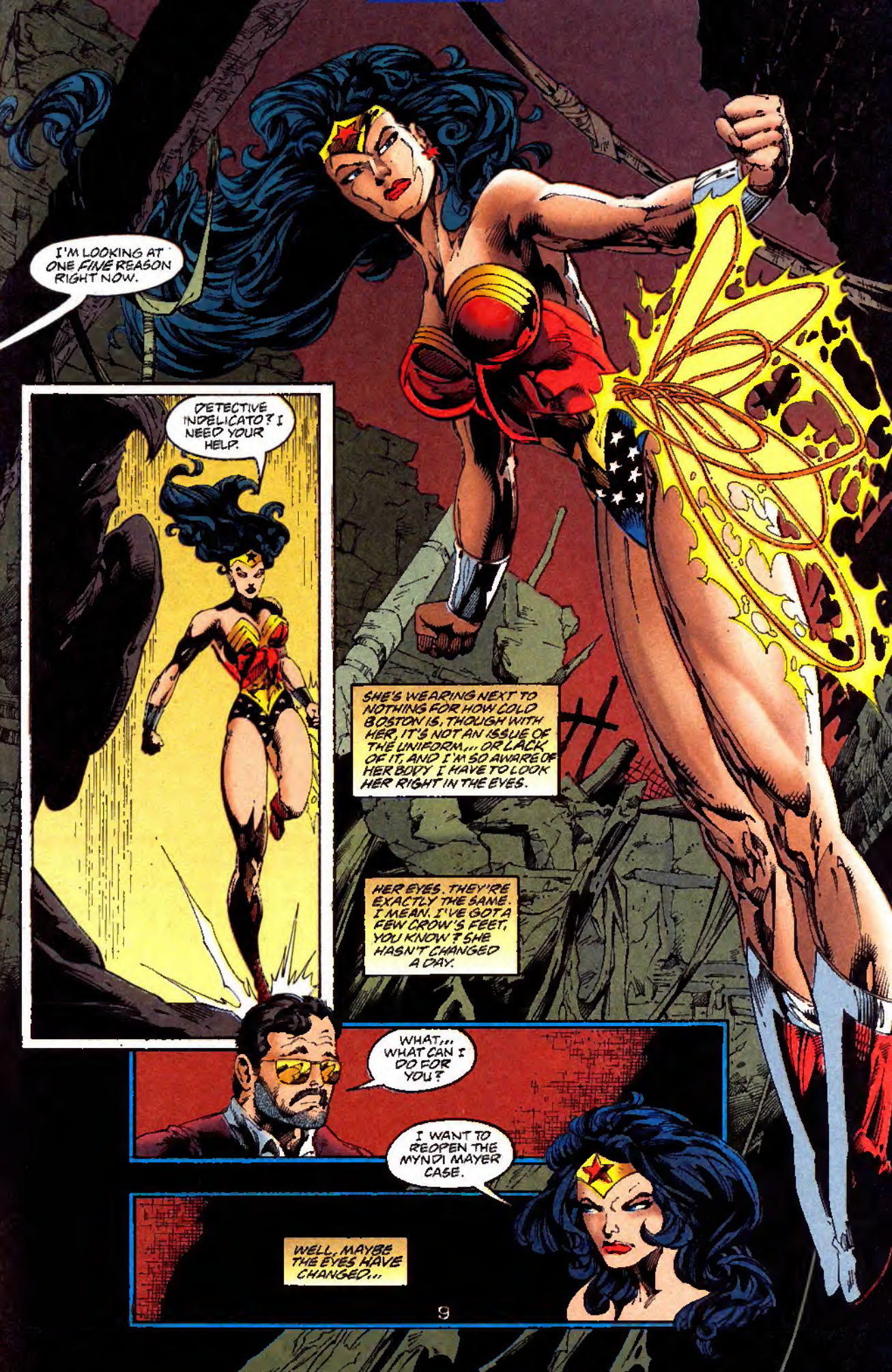

MYNDI!?
HER LIPS OPEN SLOWLY, HER EXPRESSION DRAWN AND IMPLORING. THE WORDS HOLLOW... DISTANT.
SAVE HER... SAVE HER...
SHE SEES HER FINGERS THROUGH MYNDI'S SKIN... COLDER THAN ICE.
SAVE WHO? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
SHE MOUTHS THE WORD "PLEASE" OVER AND OVER AS SHE FADES.
MYNDI! SAVE WHO?
THUD!

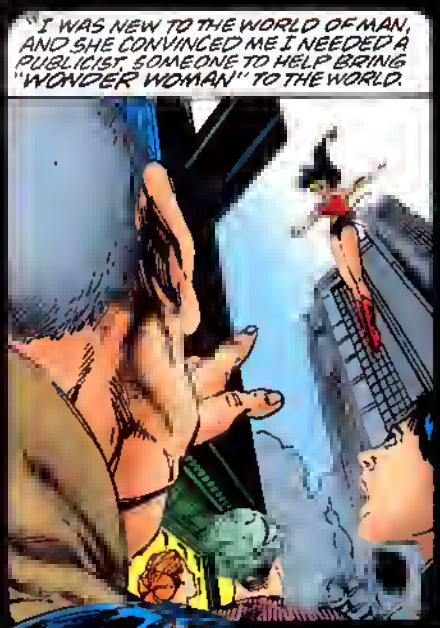
LIFE...!
LIFE IS A GODS-GIVEN GIFT. SHE KNOWS THIS MORE THAN ANYONE... SHE WHO WAS CREATED OF CLAY, LIFE BREATHED INTO IT BY GODS SHE KNOWS EXIST. IS THAT WHAT IT TAKES TO SURVIVE LIFE...?
WHO NEEDS FAITH WHEN YOU'VE MET YOUR CREATOR FACE TO FACE?
SO PRECIOUS... WHY WOULD ANYONE THROW IT AWAY? SHE SUDDENLY KNOWS... IF SHE COULD UNDERSTAND SUICIDE, SHE MIGHT FIND THE ROOT OF THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION AND DESPAIR OF MAN.
THE DESPAIR THAT LEAD YEARS AGO, TO THE SUICIDE OF HER FRIEND MYNDY. SHE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND HER ACTIONS THEN...
SHE'S GOING BACK TO WHERE SHE FIRST MET MYNDY MAYER, TO HER FIRST HOME IN THE WORLD OF MAN. SHE'S GOING BACK TO BOSTON...
TO FIND UNDERSTANDING.


BOSTON... LET ME TELL YOU, THIS PLACE HAS LOST SOMETHING. IT JUST HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE SHE LEFT.
THERE USED TO BE A MAGIC TO THE STREETS... YOU KNEW ANY SECOND YOU MIGHT SEE HER FLY OVER A BUILDING, OR COME SHOOTING AROUND A CORNER.
WHEN THAT'S GONE, YOUR LIFE JUST... EMPTIES OUT.
THE TIMES I WAS CLOSE TO HER, ON THE MAYER SUICIDE... THERE'S SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STAND CLOSE TO A SUPER-POWERED PERSON. THEY'RE LIVING LIFE MORE THAN YOU ARE.
THERE'S ALMOST A GLOW AROUND THEM. AND YOU GET TO BE A PART OF IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
AND WHEN IT'S A WOMAN... WELL, YOU CAN TAKE IT TWO WAYS, EITHER BE THREATENED, OR GIVE YOURSELF OVER TO IT.
I GAVE MYSELF OVER. IN A BIG WAY. WHICH WAS WEIRD FOR ME, AS I'D PRETTY MUCH GIVEN UP ON A PERSONAL LIFE.
SHE'S GOT THESE AMAZING IDEALS, AND THERE I WAS ...COMPLETELY CYNICAL FROM SEEING THE WORST SIDE OF HUMANITY EVERY DAY.
UH... ED?
YOU STARING AT THIS AGAIN?
THINK THIS MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHY YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DATE IN FIVE YEARS?
HEY, FIND ME SOMEBODY WHO MEASURES UP AND I'LL FALL LIKE A TON OF BRICKS, MY FRIEND.
6

WE'VE BEEN TRACKING PUSHERS FOR THIS NEW DRUG CALLED "LETHE"... SOME KIND OF GREEK NAME.
WELL GET OFF YOUR TON OF BRICKS AND MOVE! THERE'S OUR GUY!
WE'RE NO CLOSER TO THE SOURCE THAN WE WERE WHEN IT APPEARED THREE MONTHS AGO.
OH MAN OH MAN OH MAN...!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! BOSTON POLICE!
YOU GOT TO SEE THIS DRUG TO BELIEVE IT.
NO WAY MAN! NO WAY AM I GOING BACK INSIDE! I GOT CLAUSTROPHOBIA, MAN!
OKAY, DIRTBAG, WHERE IS IT COMING FROM? WHO'S YOUR SOURCE?
WHAT... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! I'M TALKING ABOUT LETHE, MAN! WHO'S THE SUPPLIER!? TALK!

NO! ED, WATCH IT!
COME ON, BEFORE YOU LOSE IT ALL! DO ONE DECENT THING IN YOUR ROTTEN LIFE! WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?!
LETHE... DAMN!
WHAT... I I'M SORRY. I DON'T KNOW... WHERE...
WHY, YOU LITTLE--
IT'S NO GOOD! HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING, PERMANENT AMNESIA. HE'S NOT LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING HE'S EVER DONE. BUT YOU WILL BE IF YOU BEAT ON HIM!
TELL ME AGAIN, LEWIS. WHY AM I IN THIS LINE OF WORK?
ED...


I'M LOOKING AT ONE FINE REASON RIGHT NOW.
DETECTIVE INDELICATO? I NEED YOUR HELP.
SHE'S WEARING NEXT TO NOTHING FOR HOW COLD BOSTON IS, THOUGH WITH HER, IT'S NOT AN ISSUE OF THE UNIFORM... OR LACK OF IT, AND I'M SO AWARE OF HER BODY I HAVE TO LOOK HER RIGHT IN THE EYES.
HER EYES. THEY'RE EXACTLY THE SAME. I MEAN, I'VE GOT A FEW CROW'S FEET, YOU KNOW? SHE HASN'T CHANGED A DAY.
WHAT... WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I WANT TO REOPEN THE MYNDI MAYER CASE.
WELL, MAYBE THE EYES HAVE CHANGED...

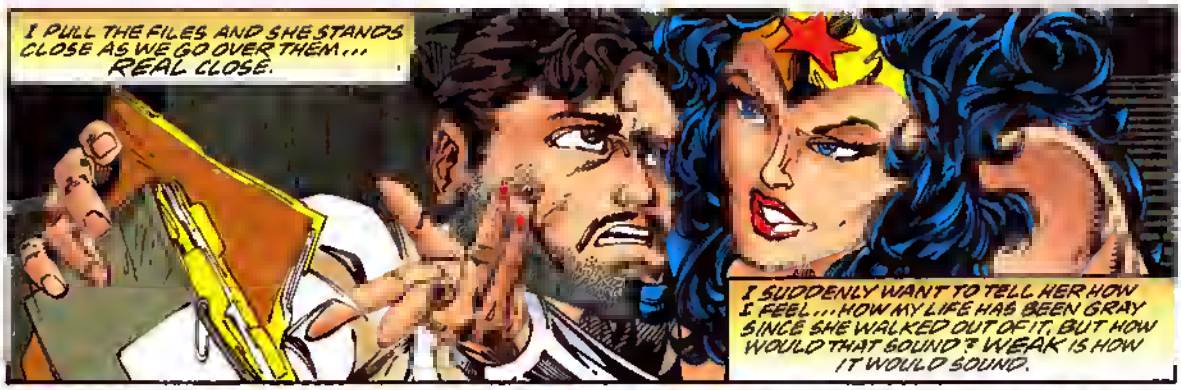


"IN SPITE OF HER DARK SIDE, SHE BECAME A FRIEND. I ENJOYED HER AS I WOULD A TRICKSTER OUT OF MYTH, ALWAYS PLAYING THE ODDS.

"I CAN STILL HEAR HER VICTORY LAUGH WHEN SHE CLOSED A DEAL.

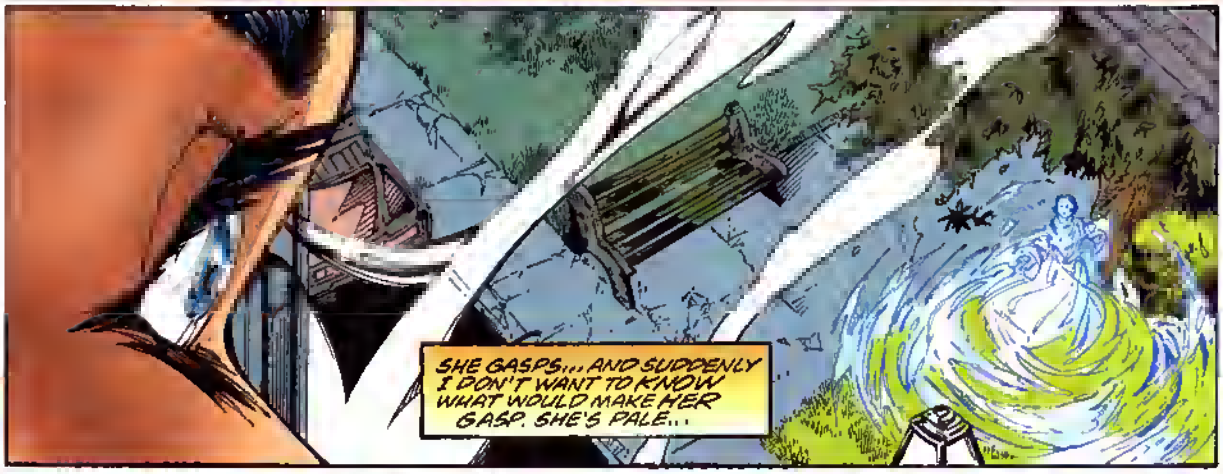
"SHE KILLED HERSELF WITH A SUICIDAL COMBINATION OF COCAINE AND ALCOHOL THAT CAUSED A MASSIVE CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE.

"EVEN BEFORE A TRUSTED "FRIEND" BLEW HER HEAD OFF WITH A SHOTGUN."


I PULL THE FILES AND SHE STANDS CLOSE AS WE GO OVER THEM... REAL CLOSE.
I SUDDENLY WANT TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL... HOW MY LIFE HAS BEEN GRAY SINCE SHE WALKED OUT OF IT. BUT HOW WOULD THAT SOUND? WEAK IS HOW IT WOULD SOUND.

I DON'T SAY ANYTHING.
SORRY, I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
I'LL KNOW IT WHEN I SEE IT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M BASING THIS ON, IT'S ...JUST...


SHE GASPS... AND SUDDENLY I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT WOULD MAKE HER GASP. SHE'S PALE...

...AS IF SHE'D BEEN A GHOST.

WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SEE?
SHE WAS POINTING TO THIS.
HEY, LISTEN, I'M NOT GETTING PERSONAL, BUT DO YOU USUALLY SEE GHOSTS? I MEAN, IS THIS PART OF THE WHOLE GREEK MYTHOLOGY THING?
TREES. SOMETHING ABOUT TREES. WHAT IS IT?
WELL... WORD ASSOCIATION... UP A TREE, OUT ON A LIMB. A FAMILY TREE...
FAMILY TREE? OF COURSE! THAT'S IT! CHECK HER FAMILY TREE.

SITTING CLOSE TO HER, THE WARMTH COMING OFF HER, A SMELL LIKE... I DON'T KNOW. FRESH AIR? THE STUFF OF LIFE.
BINGO! HELLO MAYER FAMILY...
WOAH. MYNDI NOT ONLY HAD A LITTLE SISTER, SHE'S BEEN IN THE SYSTEM. BUSTED SEVERAL TIMES FOR POSSESSION, HOLDING.
CALL ALBIE (ABOUT POKER)
THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHAT SHE WANTS ME TO DO! HER SISTER MUST BE IN TROUBLE, AND SHE WANTS ME TO SAVE HER!
IT DOES SOMETHING TO YOUR DIGNITY, BEING PICKED UP LIKE A KID. THE HUG FEELS LIKE A VISE. SHE COULD BREAK ME IN TWO IF SHE WANTED.
I'VE GOT TO START WORKING OUT MORE.

WE CHECK THE KID SISTER'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS. IT'S LIKE THE OLD DAYS. PEOPLE STOP WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND POINT UP AT THE FIGURE FLYING OVERHEAD.

WHEN YOU SEE A WOMAN WEARING THE AMERICAN FLAG, FLYING THROUGH THE AIR, YOUR FIRST THOUGHT IS, "GIMME A BREAK."

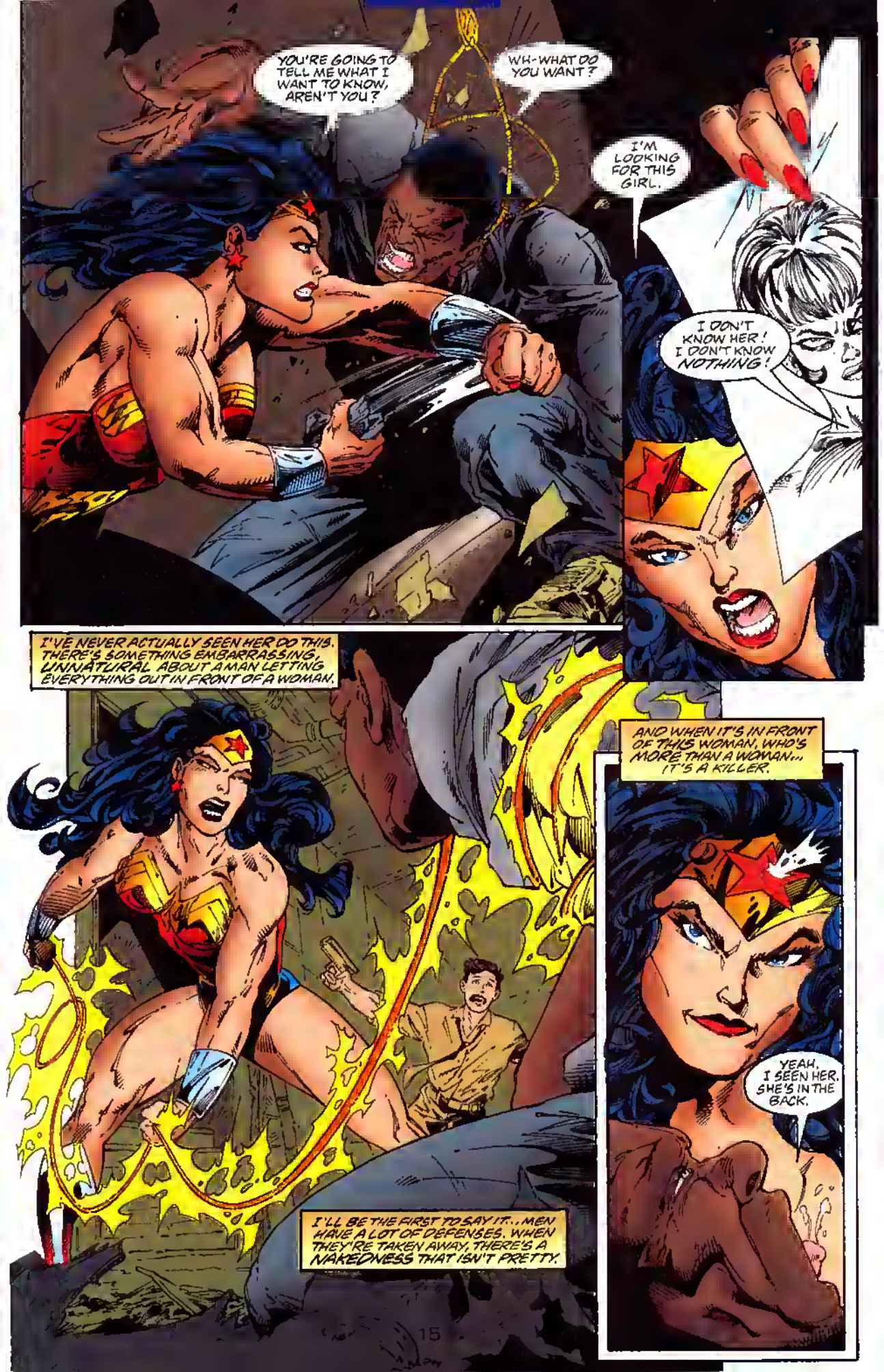
BUT SOMETHING LINGERS UNDERNEATH. SOME KIND OF REMINDER... OF PRIDE.

NO MATTER HER SURROUNDINGS, SHE WALKS THROUGH THEM, SHINING AND CLEAN.

SHE MAKES THE WORLD LOOK BAD BY COMPARISON. IT HITS ME. JUST BY BEING HERSELF, SHE MAKES THE WORLD CHANGE.

IT EITHER HAS TO COME UP TO HER STANDARDS...

...OR PAY THE PRICE

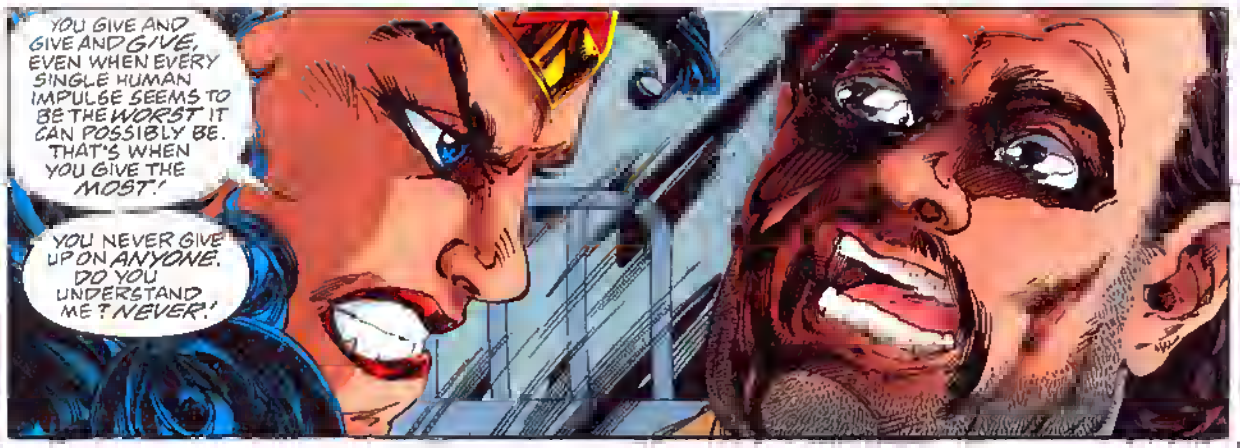

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, AREN'T YOU?
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M LOOKING FOR THIS GIRL.
I DON'T KNOW HER! I DON'T KNOW NOTHING!
I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN HER DO THIS. THERE'S SOMETHING EMBARRASSING, UNNATURAL ABOUT A MAN LETTING EVERYTHING OUT IN FRONT OF A WOMAN.
AND WHEN IT'S IN FRONT OF THIS WOMAN, WHO'S MORE THAN A WOMAN... IT'S A KILLER.
YEAH, I SEEN HER. SHE'S IN THE BACK.
I'LL BE THE FIRST TO SAY IT.. MEN HAVE A LOT OF DEFENSES. WHEN THEY'RE TAKEN AWAY, THERE'S A NAKEDNESS THAT ISN'T PRETTY.

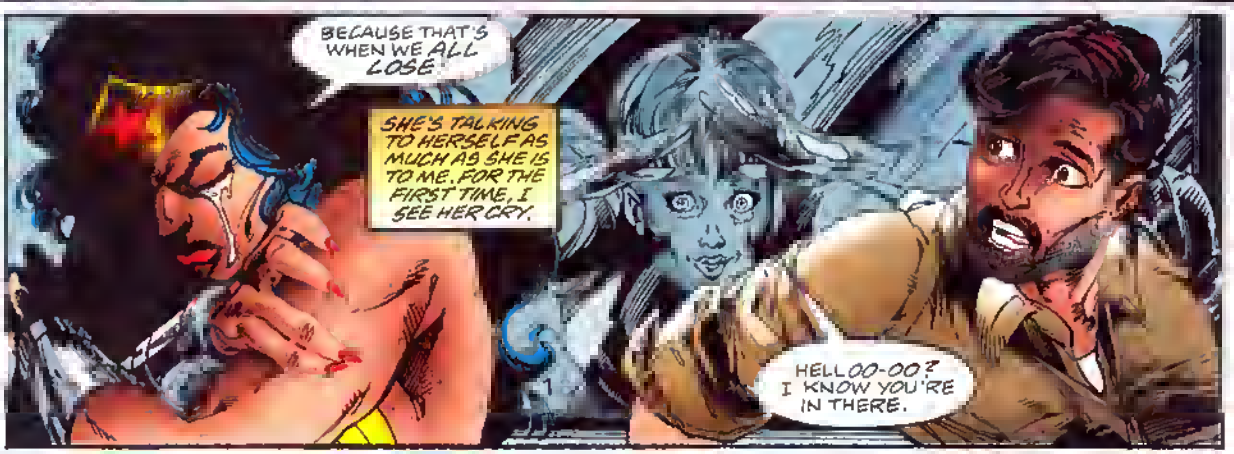
EVERYBODY DOWN ON THE FLOOR! ASSUME THE POSITION!
IT'S DARK. THE BODIES LIE SLUMPED AGAINST THE WALLS LIKE SACKS OF MEAT. IT SMELLS LIKE DEATH.
HOW DIANA PICKS HER OUT I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT'S HER.
WHAT ARE YOU DRESSED UP FOR? YOU LOOK LIKE A BIG PLASTIC DOLL.
ARE YOU MYNDI MAYER'S LITTLE SISTER?
AND THEN THE LETHE FALLS OUT OF THE KID'S HAND...
YOU GET A FEELING WHEN A CASE BREAKS. IT'S LIKE THE WEATHER CHANGING.
JUST LOOK AT THE TWO OF THEM. HOW CAN ONE RACE TURN OUT SO DIFFERENT? AND THEN I REMEMBER. SHE'S NOT ONE OF US. SHE'S BETTER.

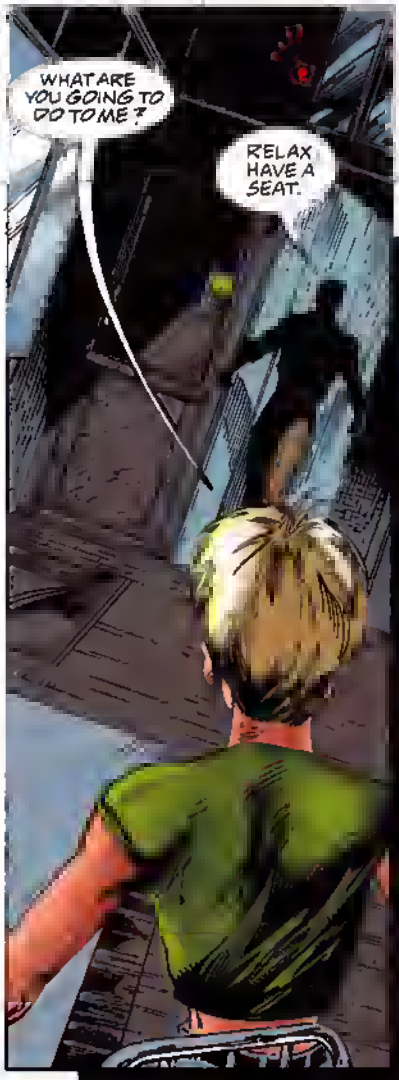
OKAY, NO MORE GAMES! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT THE LETHE! BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T--
I TOOK LETHE I DON'T REMEMBER
LIKE HELL-- IF YOU TOOK LETHE YOU'D HAVE NO MEMORY!
HOLD ON, DETECTIVE. WENDY. I KNEW YOUR SISTER. IT MUST HAVE HIT YOU HARD WITH WHAT HAPPENED.
WHO, MYNDI? SHE LEFT ME BEHIND A LONG TIME AGO. WOULDN'T EVEN ADMIT I WAS HER SISTER.
I'M GLAD SHE KILLED HERSELF.
YOU SEE THAT? YOU SEE WHAT SHE IS? YOU EXPECT TO SAVE THIS GARBAGE?
STEP IN HERE FOR A MOMENT, WOULD YOU PLEASE, DETECTIVE?

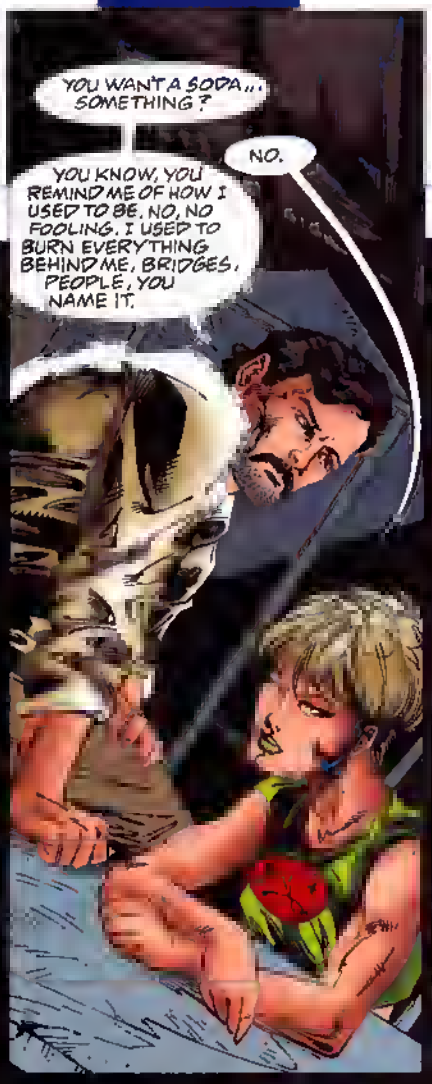
LISTEN, YOU MAY HAVE GIVEN UP ON THE HUMAN RACE, BUT I HAVE NOT. YOU NEVER REFER TO ANYONE AS GARBAGE.

HUMAN LIFE IS A GIFT, TO BE TREASURED, AND IT'S UP TO US TO SET AN EXAMPLE, NOT GRIND THEM FURTHER INTO THE MUD!
YOU APPROACH EVERY SINGLE HUMAN BEING WITH UNDERSTANDING, AND ABOVE ALL, COMPASSION.


YOU GIVE AND GIVE AND GIVE, EVEN WHEN EVERY SINGLE HUMAN IMPULSE SEEMS TO BE THE WORST IT CAN POSSIBLY BE. THAT'S WHEN YOU GIVE THE MOST!
YOU NEVER GIVE UP ON ANYONE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME? NEVER!

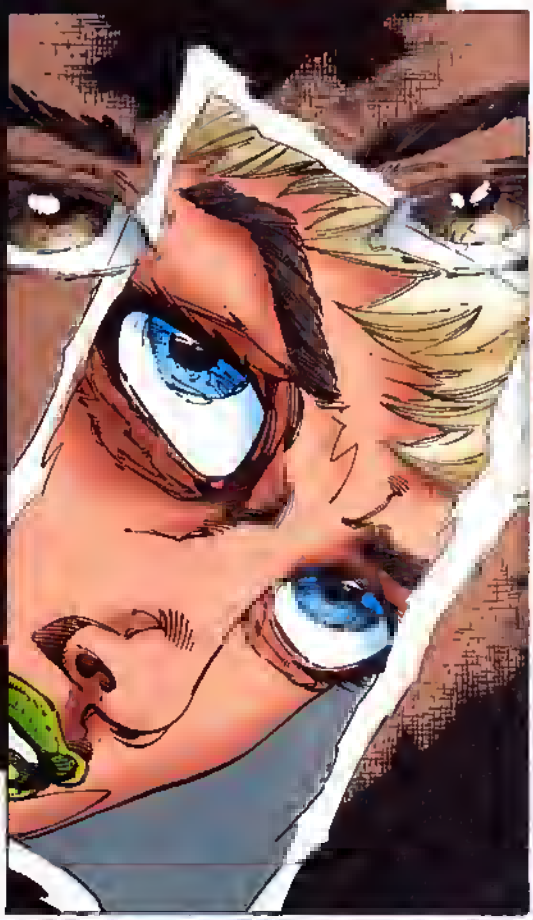

BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN WE ALL LOSE!
SHE'S TALKING TO HERSELF AS MUCH AS SHE IS TO ME. FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SEE HER CRY.
HELLOO-OO? I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE.


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
RELAX HAVE A SEAT.


YOU WANT A SODA... SOMETHING?
NO.
YOU KNOW, YOU REMIND ME OF HOW I USED TO BE. NO, NO FOOLING. I USED TO BURN EVERYTHING BEHIND ME, BRIDGES, PEOPLE, YOU NAME IT.

AND YOU KNOW WHY?
I'M ON THE EDGE OF MY SEAT
BECAUSE I WAS SO AFRAID EVERYONE WAS GOING TO HATE ME, THAT I MADE SURE THEY DID, SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO GUESS. I USED TO SAY TERRIBLE THINGS, ABOUT MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, ANYONE, JUST TO HATE ME, SO I COULD SAY "SEE? I TOLD YOU SO."

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I GIVE A RAT'S--
I DON'T CARE IF YOU CARE. I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW I SEE YOU, AND I HEAR YOU.



SO... WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THE SOURCE OF THIS LETHE POISON FOR THREE MONTHS. ANY SUBSTANTIATED INFORMATION YOU COULD THROW MY WAY COULD BUY YOU A WALK FROM THESE ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE CHARGES.
IS THIS FOR REAL?
FOR REAL.
SHAKE ON IT, DETECTIVE...?
INDELICATO. ITALIAN. YOU CAN GUESS WHAT IT MEANS.
INDELICATO.
AND BY THE WAY, IT'S A TWO-WAY STREET. I SEE YOU, AND I HEAR YOU TOO.

WENDY TELLS ME WHERE SHE GOT THE LETHE... SAYS IT'S HEAVILY GUARDED, BUT SHE CAN GET US IN BEFORE THEY FLUSH ALL THE EVIDENCE.

I SAY WE SHOULD GO IN WITH A SMALL ARMY. DIANA SAYS SHE CAN HANDLE IT HERSELF.

I SAY FINE.

I FEEL HER EYES ON ME

THESE GUYS ARE MONSTERS.

BELIEVE ME. I'VE SEEN A LOT OF BAD GUYS.

NO I MEAN THEY RE *REALLY* MONSTERS.

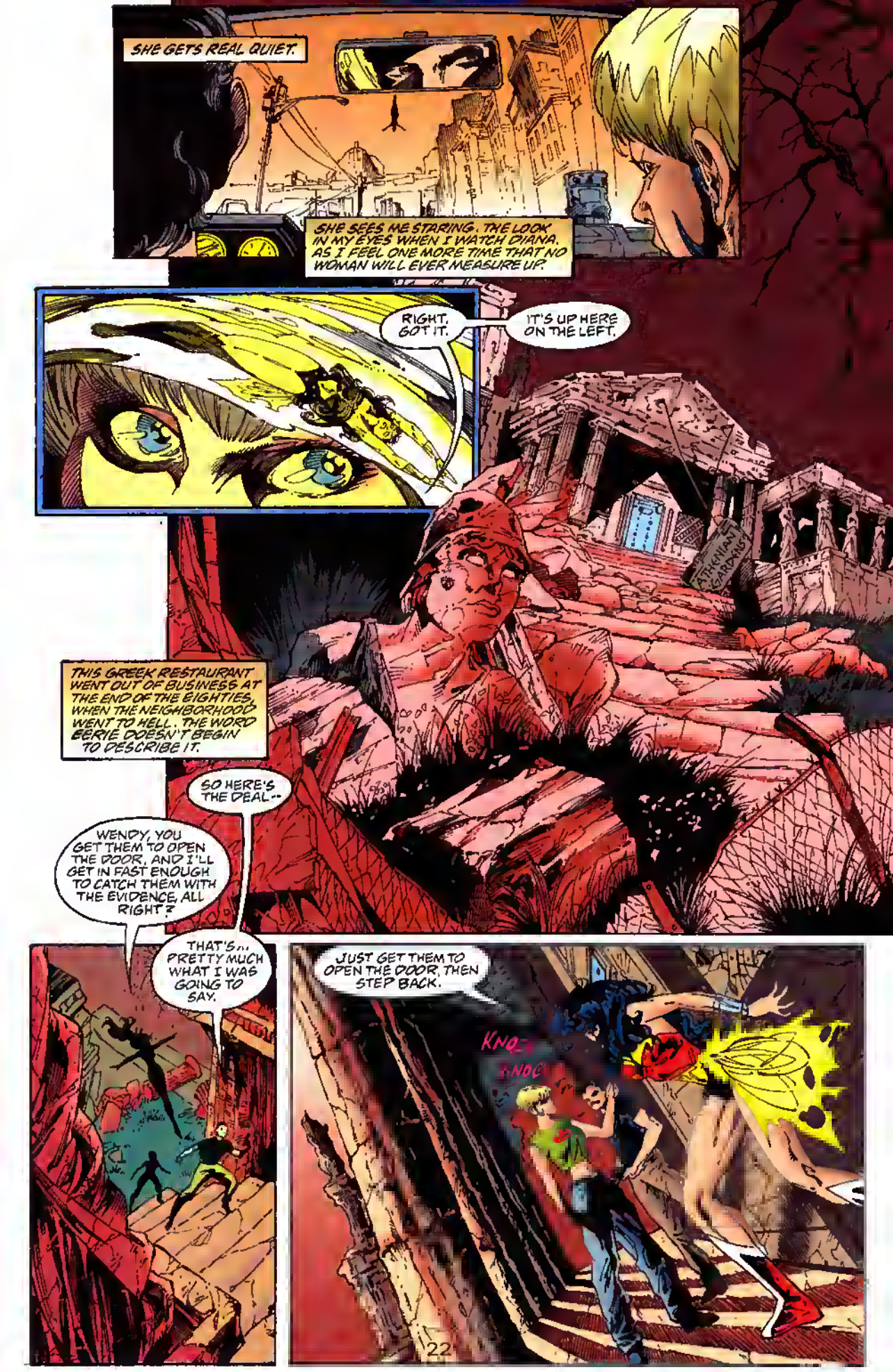
I FEEL HER FINGERS. AT FIRST I THINK SHE'S TRYING SOMETHING. THEN I REALIZE SHE'S SCARED.

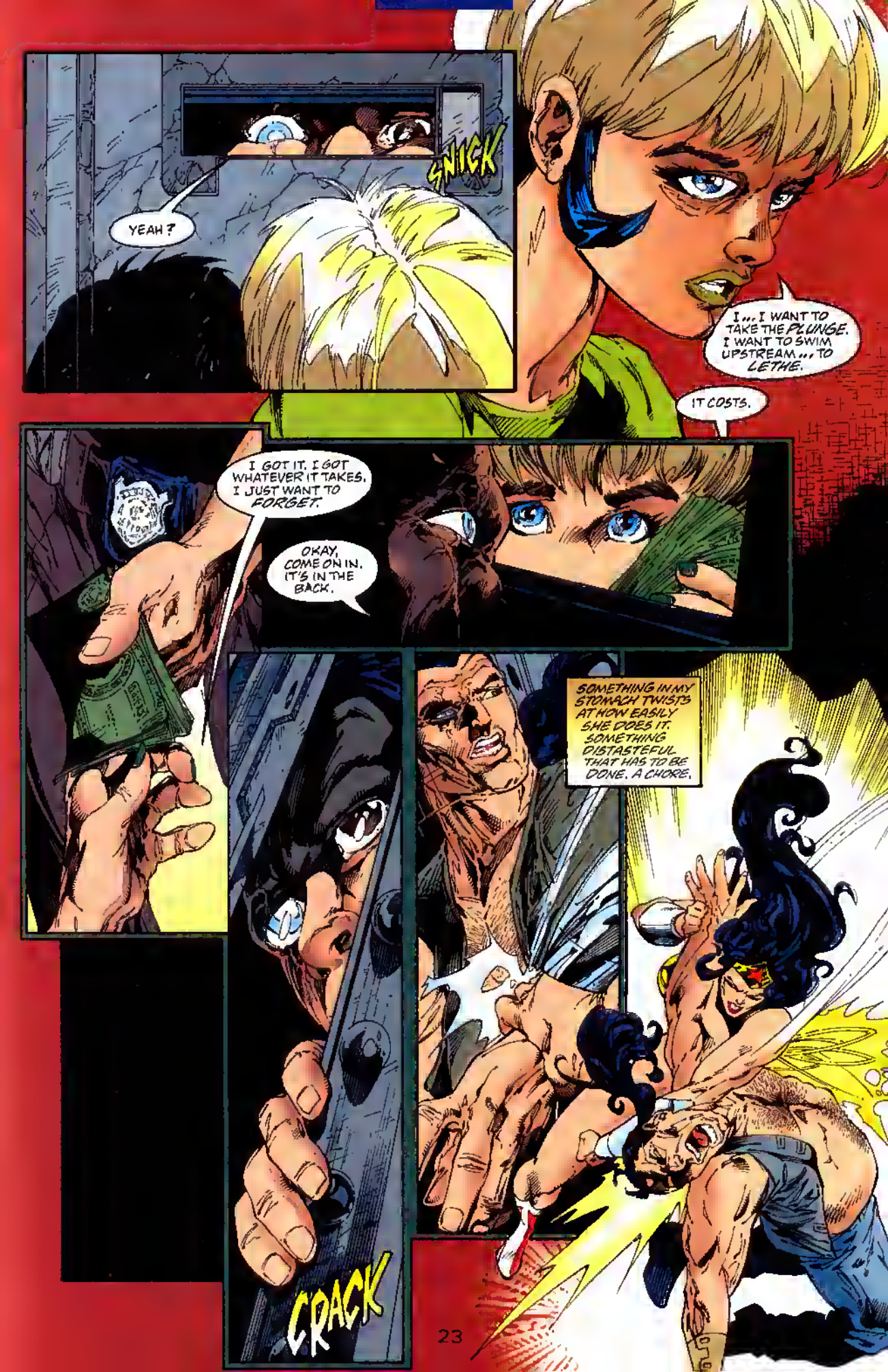
SO, DETECTIVE...

YOU THINK AFTER THIS YOU MIGHT WANT TO... YOU KNOW... GET A CUP OF COFFEE OR SOMETHING?

WHAT, YOU AND ME? ARE YOU *KIDDING*? YOU WERE JUST ABOUT TO WIPE OUT MOST OF YOUR CEREBRAL CORTEX WITH THIS *LETHE* CRAP, AND NOW YOU WANT TO START *DATING*?

YOU'D HAVE TO BE CLEAN FOR AT LEAST A YEAR. AND EVEN THEN...


SHE GETS REAL QUIET.
SHE SEES ME STARING. THE LOOK IN MY EYES WHEN I WATCH DIANA. AS I FEEL ONE MORE TIME THAT NO WOMAN WILL EVER MEASURE UP.
RIGHT, GOT IT.
IT'S UP HERE ON THE LEFT.
ATHENIAN GARDENS
THIS GREEK RESTAURANT WENT OUT OF BUSINESS AT THE END OF THE EIGHTIES, WHEN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WENT TO HELL. THE WORD EERIE DOESN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE IT.
SO HERE'S THE DEAL--
WENDY, YOU GET THEM TO OPEN THE DOOR, AND I'LL GET IN FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH THEM WITH THE EVIDENCE, ALL RIGHT?
THAT'S... PRETTY MUCH WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY.
JUST GET THEM TO OPEN THE DOOR, THEN STEP BACK.
KNOCK
KNOCK


SNICK
YEAH?
I... I WANT TO TAKE THE PLUNGE. I WANT TO SWIM UPSTREAM... TO LETHE.
IT COSTS.
I GOT IT. I GOT WHATEVER IT TAKES. I JUST WANT TO FORGET.
OKAY, COME ON IN. IT'S IN THE BACK.
SOMETHING IN MY STOMACH TWISTS AT HOW EASILY SHE DOES IT. SOMETHING DISTASTEFUL THAT HAS TO BE DONE. A CHORE.
CRACK

MY ADRENALINE IS PUMPING LIKE AN EXPRESS TRAIN. SHE WALKS INTO THE DARKNESS WITH COMPLETE ASSURANCE. THIS IS WHERE MY LOVE COMES FROM... MOMENTS LIKE THIS THAT I CAN NEVER HOPE TO ACHIEVE.
SHE'S UNTOUCHABLE
WITH THAT SHIPMENT OUR PROFITS TOP EVEN LAST MONTH'S. I NEVER WOULD HAVE PREDICTED IT.
WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED THE HUMAN RACE WOULD FIND COMPLETE AMNESIA SO APPEALING? AND WOULD PAY SO MUCH FOR IT?
THIS WAS AN ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT IDEA, WHOEVER YOUR BOSS IS--
HOLY...!
THE ROOM TWISTS ... I'M SEEING SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T BE THERE.
GREETINGS, DAUGHTER OF THEMYSCIRA! OUR MISTRESS TOLD US TO EXPECT YOU!
GET BACK, DETECTIVE! THIS HAS JUST TAKEN A WHOLE NEW TURN!

CYCLOPES! SONS OF THE EARTH-MOTHER GAEA, I THOUGHT YOU CAST DOWN INTO TARTARUS, TO BECOME WEAPON MAKERS FOR ZEUS!
WHAM! WHAM!
SHE'S TREATING IT AS IF IT WERE AN EVERYDAY THING. THE PROBLEM IS, IT'S JUST WALKED OUT OF A HARRYHAUSEN FILM, AND IT'S BABBLING SOME GREEK MYTH CRAP IN AN ACCENT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND.
THEN I GET HIT BY A BRICK WALL, AND EVERYTHING GOES AWAY FOR A WHILE. THE LAST THING I HEAR IS THAT INSANE VOICE YELLING.
WE STOKED THE FORGES OF HEPHAESTUS IN THE VOLCANOES OF THE WORLD! WE WERE THE MASONS OF OLYMPUS!
MY BULLETS EVAPORATE OFF ITS SKIN.
COULDN'T YOU HAVE BUILT IT WITH THE GRAVITY ALL GOING ONE WAY?
WHAM
WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER? I THOUGHT THERE WERE THREE OF YOU.

OUR BROTHER WAS KILLED BY APOLLO WHEN ZEUS SLEW HIS SON WITH A THUNDERBOLT WE FORGED!
NOW WE WORK FOR A NEW EMPLOYER!
WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR? WHO IS YOUR MISTRESS?
WHAM!
SPEAK! I COMMAND IT! OR THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE CYCLOPS BY THE END OF THIS DAY!

YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR US! WE WERE BORN OF A GODDESS! OUR MOTHER IS THE EARTH!
YOU ARE BUT ANIMATE CLAY! YOU ARE NOTHING!
NOTHING!
AND YOU'RE DEAD MEAT IF YOU DON'T GET OFF HER!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
WHAT IS THIS MOSQUITO?
I KNOW IT'S USELESS. I'M ONLY GIVING HER THE OPENING SHE NEEDS.

SHE TAKES IT. AND MY HEART OPENS UP. THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER WOMAN WHO CAN MOVE LIKE THIS, DANCING IN SPACE...
KRACK!
WHAM!
THESE MONSTERS WHO LIVE FOREVER FEAR A FINAL DEATH EVEN MORE THAN MORTALS. QUICK, LET'S TRACK THEM TO THEIR LAIR!
SHE COMES AFTER THEM LIKE VENGEANCE. THEY TEAR THE FLOOR OPEN IN THEIR FEAR.
KRASH!
A COLD WIND BLOWS FROM DOWN BELOW... WITH A FEELING LIKE DARK MAGIC. I'M ENTERING AN ANCIENT, ETERNAL WORLD WHERE I DON'T MATTER AT ALL...
WHERE MY COMPLETE LIFE, EVERYTHING I AM, WILL BE GONE IN THE TICK OF A SECOND.

I'M GETTING DEEP INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE. SHE WALKS INTO IT LIKE IT WAS NOTHING. SHE'S AT HOME HERE.
AND THEN THE BOTTOM DROPS OUT. WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN INTO HERE?
WE'VE FOUND THE SOURCE OF THE LETHE.

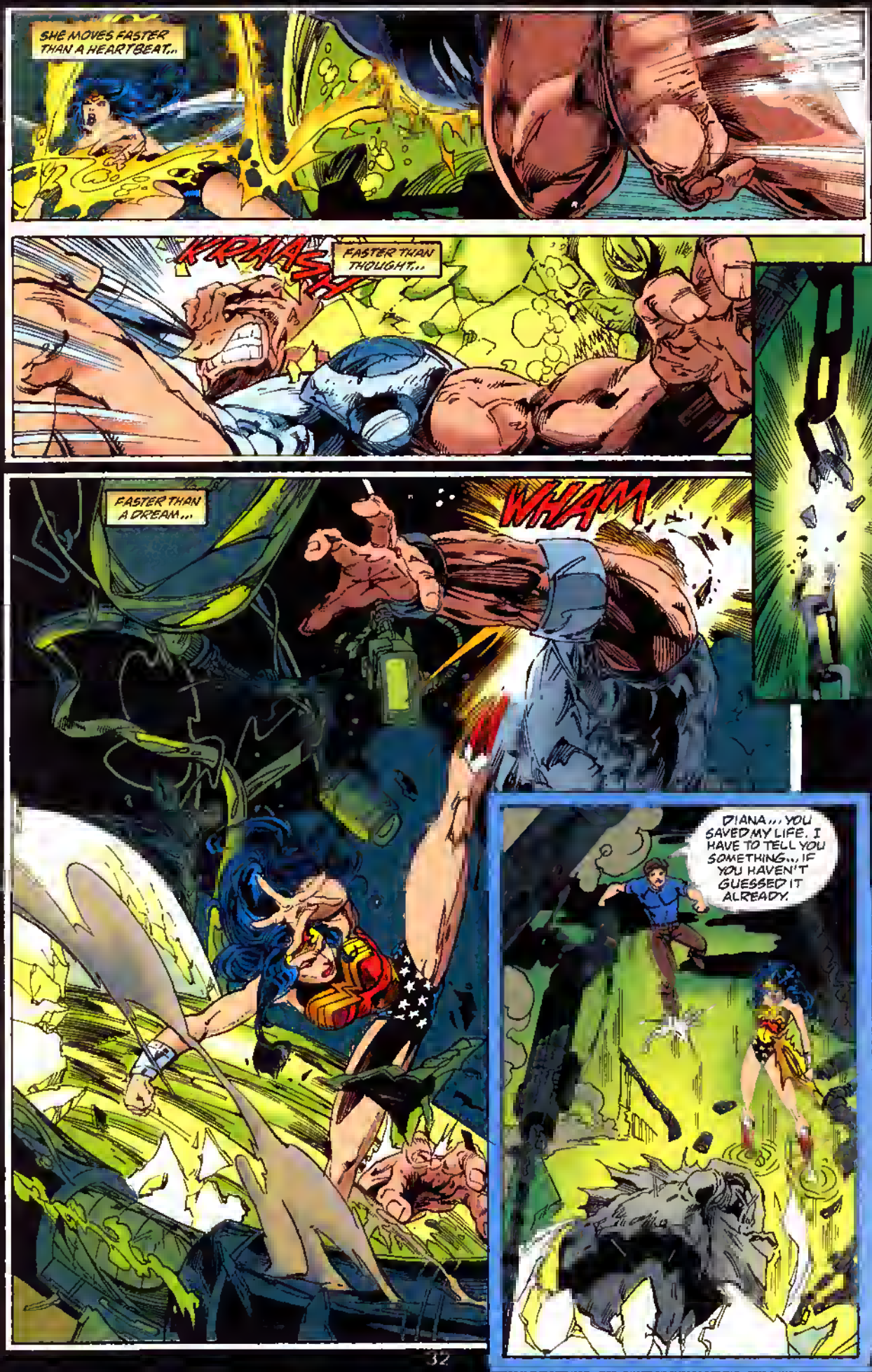
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS THING?
THIS IS A DENIZEN OF THE RIVER LETHE, THE STREAM OF FORGETFULNESS IN THE UNDERWORLD. THE JUICES OF ITS BODY INDUCE AMNESIA.
SOMEONE HAS TAKEN IT OUT OF ITS NATIVE HABITAT AND BROUGHT IT TO THE UPPER WORLD TO PROFIT FROM THE WEAKNESS OF MAN. THIS IS MONSTROUS.
MONSTROUS IS THE WORD, ALL RIGHT—
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON, GODSPAWN? MUST I POUND THE LIFE OUT OF YOU?
STOP!
SURRENDER, OR I WILL TEAR THIS HUMAN APART!

STUPID THING IS... I FEEL REALLY EMBARRASSED.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. Nnnnh. DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

NO!
VERY WELL. YOU HAVE ME, MONSTER. DO WHAT YOU WILL.

heh... I'VE ALWAYS WANTED MY WAY WITH ONE OF THE AMAZONS... heh heh... AS WE LABORED AND SWEATED, SPIT UPON BY THE GODS, AND YOUR RACE WAS GIVEN THE RUN OF THE UPPER WORLD...
I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS.

DON'T COUNT YOUR PLEASURES TOO SOON, MONSTER!

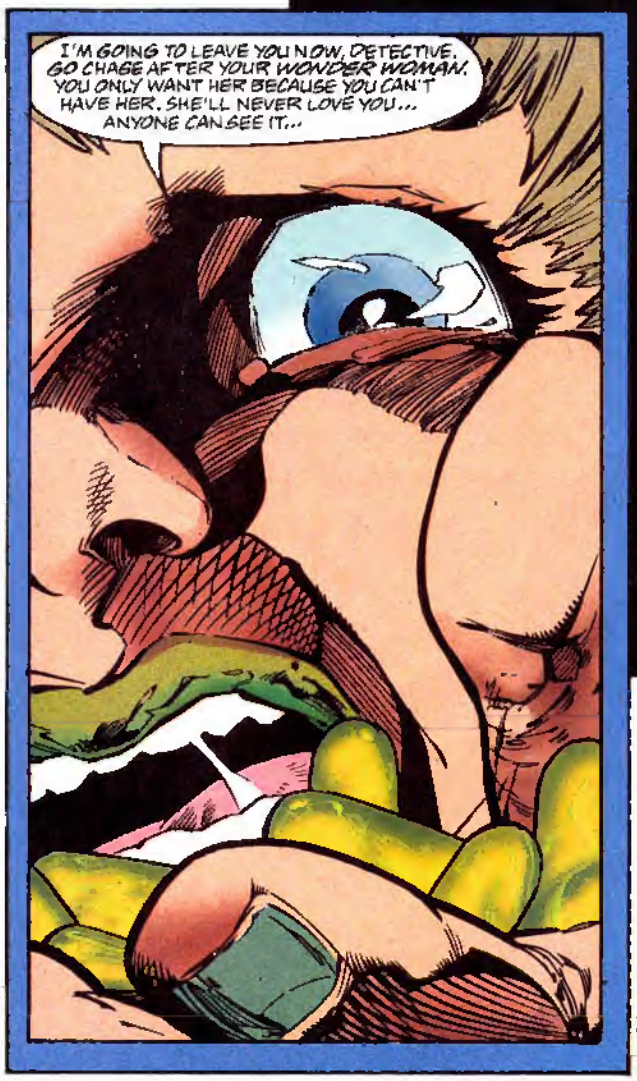

SHE MOVES FASTER THAN A HEARTBEAT...
KRAASH
FASTER THAN THOUGHT...
FASTER THAN A DREAM...
WHAM
DIANA... YOU SAVED MY LIFE. I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING... IF YOU HAVEN'T GUESSED IT ALREADY.

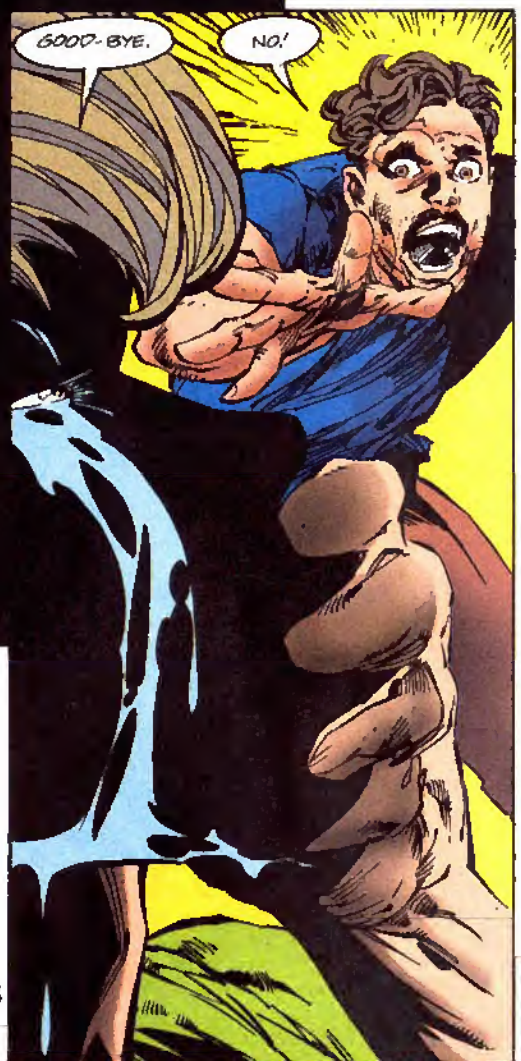
I CAN'T HELP IT. IT ALL SPILLS OUT.
MY LIFE HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE I MET YOU. YOU'RE ALL I THINK ABOUT. NO OTHER WOMAN WILL EVER MEASURE UP. YOU'RE ALL I EVER WANTED...
ED...
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME. YOU SEE WHAT I AM ON THE OUTSIDE... MY IDEALS.
LOOK AT MY HAND. THIS IS EARTH... WITH LIFE BREATHED INTO IT BY A GOD. WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME? HALF THE TIME I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I AM, LET ALONE WHO I AM.
IF YOU GET DOWN TO IT, WE'RE ALL JUST CLAY WITH LIFE BREATHED INTO IT. WE'RE NO DIFFERENT, DIANA.
YES WE ARE...
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING PEACE TO THE WORLD OF MAN, ED. YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR BEING AT PEACE WITH YOURSELF.

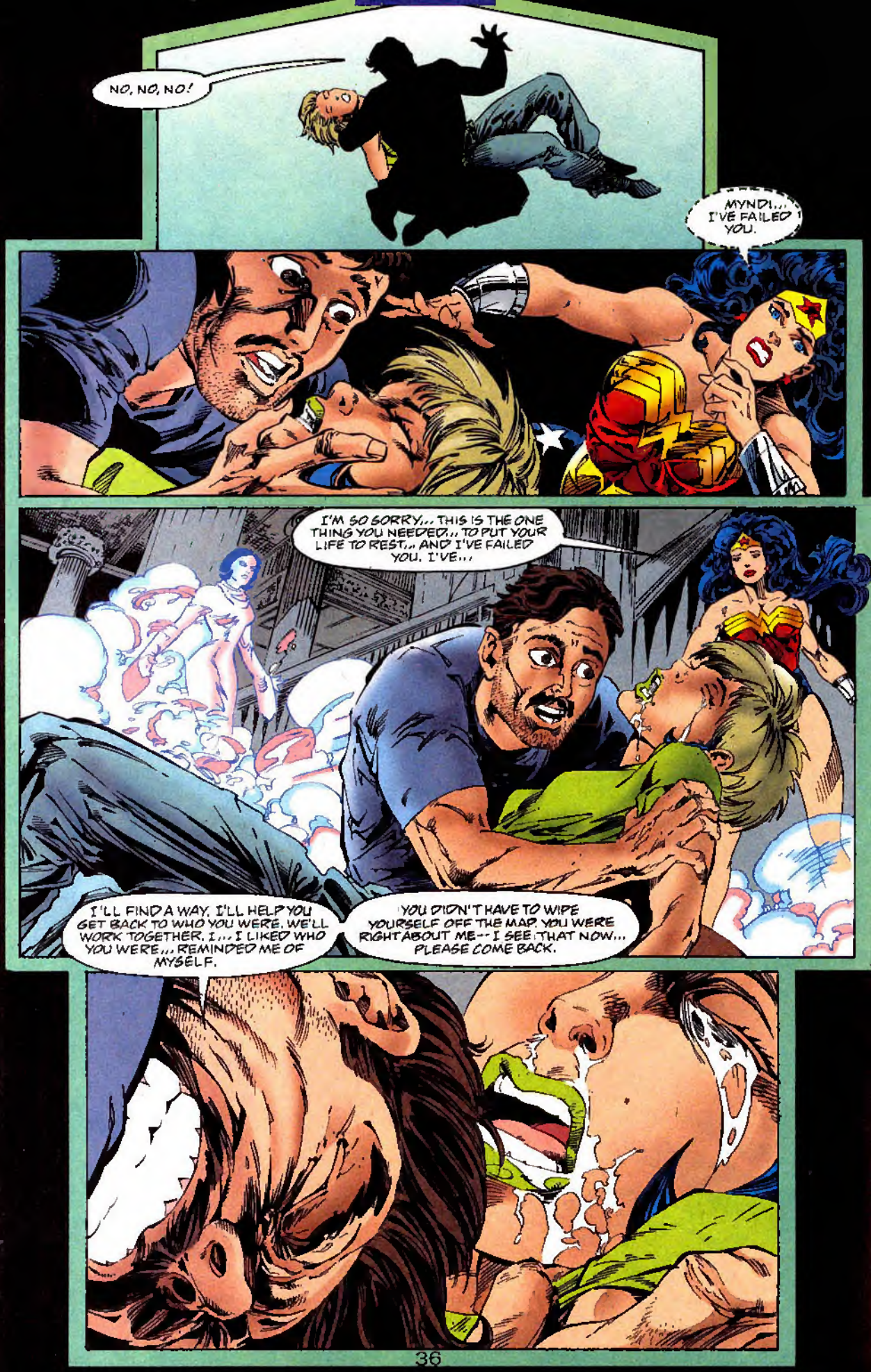
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
YOU HAVE RUINED MY GIFT! IT WAS GIVEN TO ALL OF HUMANITY AND YOU HAVE DESTROYED IT. AMAZON! YOU SHALL PAY FOR THIS!
SO WHO'S THIS NOW?
THIS IS THE DAUGHTER OF A GOD AND YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE HER ANGRY. BOW LOW, DETECTIVE.
O GREAT THALIA, MUSE OF COMEDY AND DAUGHTER OF ZEUS! I AM TRULY SORRY FOR MY TRANSGRESSION, BUT I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND--
I CARE NOT IF YOU UNDERSTAND! IF MY SISTER MELPOMENE, MUSE OF TRAGEDY, HOLDS SO MUCH SWAY OVER THE HUMANS OF THIS TIME THAT I CANNOT BREAK HER HOLD, THEN THE GIFT OF FORGETFULNESS IS ALL I CAN GIVE THEM, THAT THEY WILL NOT BE FORCED TO SUFFER SO!
WITH THE CYCLOPES AS MY PURVEYORS, I BROUGHT THIS BEAUTIFUL GIFT TO THEIR STREETS, AND THEY FLOCKED TO IT, SUCH WAS THEIR NEED!
BUT YOU HAVE RUINED IT! AND SO YOU SHALL DIE!

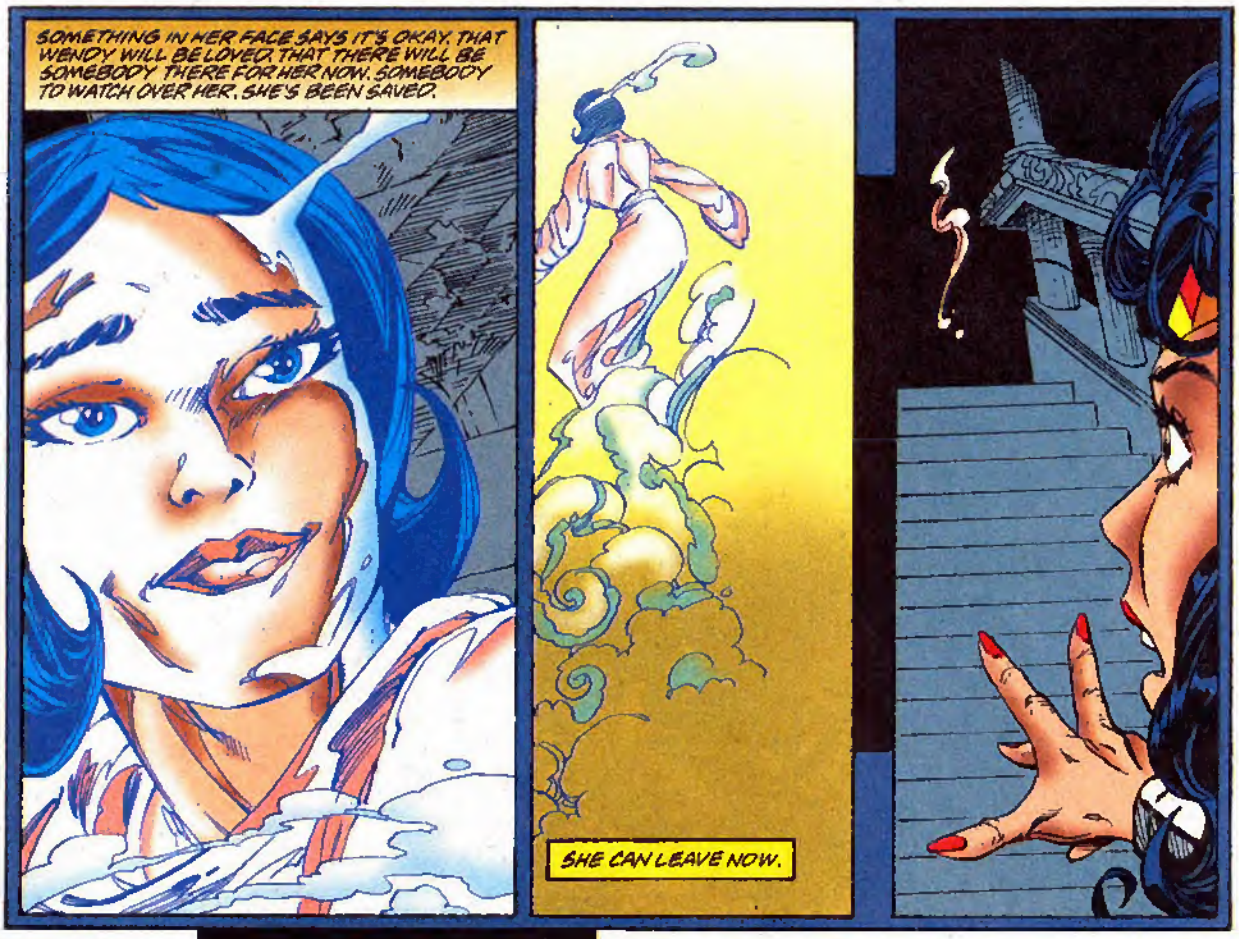
HOLD, EXALTED MUSE! LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT YOUR FORGETFULNESS WOULD DO TO JUST ONE LIFE... THAT IT'S WORTH SAVING RATHER THAN THROWING AWAY TO AMNESIA. THEN JUDGE ME!

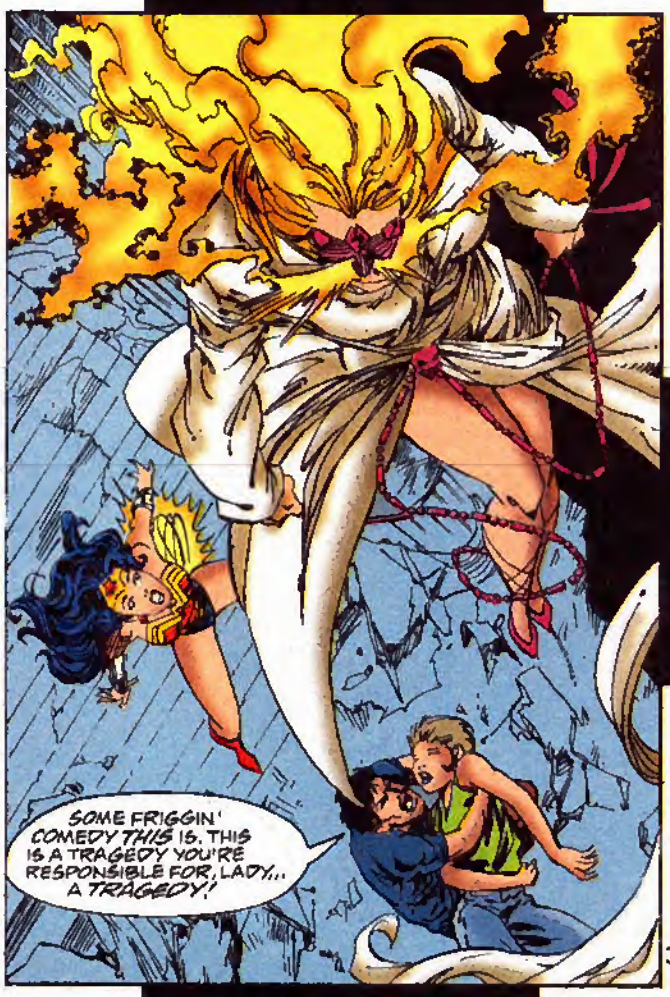
WENDY! WHERE ARE YOU?


I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU NOW, DETECTIVE. GO CHASE AFTER YOUR WONDER WOMAN. YOU ONLY WANT HER BECAUSE YOU CAN'T HAVE HER. SHE'LL NEVER LOVE YOU... ANYONE CAN SEE IT...


GOOD-BYE.
NO!


NO, NO, NO!
MYNDI... I'VE FAILED YOU.
I'M SO SORRY... THIS IS THE ONE THING YOU NEEDED... TO PUT YOUR LIFE TO REST... AND I'VE FAILED YOU. I'VE...
I'LL FIND A WAY. I'LL HELP YOU GET BACK TO WHO YOU WERE. WE'LL WORK TOGETHER. I... I LIKED WHO YOU WERE... REMINDED ME OF MYSELF.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WIPE YOURSELF OFF THE MAP. YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ME-- I SEE THAT NOW... PLEASE COME BACK.


SOMETHING IN HER FACE SAYS IT'S OKAY. THAT WENDY WILL BE LOVED, THAT THERE WILL BE SOMEBODY THERE FOR HER NOW. SOMEBODY TO WATCH OVER HER. SHE'S BEEN SAVED.
SHE CAN LEAVE NOW.


SOME FRIGGIN' COMEDY THIS IS. THIS IS A TRAGEDY YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR, LADY... A TRAGEDY!

PERHAPS I MUST... RETHINK THIS.

SO THAT'S HOW WE CLEANED THE LETHE OFF THE STREETS OF BOSTON. AND THAT'S HOW DIANA LEFT FOR GATEWAY CITY, AND FLEW OUT OF MY LIFE FOREVER.
BUT NOT BEFORE SHE TAUGHT ME SOMETHING I NEEDED TO KNOW... HOW TO GIVE AND KEEP ON GIVING.
WENDY'S MEMORY IS A LABYRINTH, AND EACH DAY WE TURN A CORNER, FIND SOMETHING NEW.
BEFORE SHE LEFT, DIANA GAVE ME A LAST SMILE... OF THANKS. LIKE MAYBE SHE LEARNED SOMETHING TOO.
SHE SAID... THE TRUTH IS A POWERFUL WEAPON. IT CAN PUSH A MAN TOWARDS DEATH. SUICIDE WILL ALWAYS BE A MYSTERY... AN OPTION THAT HAUNTS THE SOUL OF HUMANITY.
BUT MAYBE THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THAT ATONE FOR IT... SHOUT OUT THAT LIFE IS WORTH LIVING.
I HOPE DIANA FINDS WHAT SHE'S LOOKING FOR. ALL I KNOW IS I GOT WENDY IN MY ARMS NOW MOST NIGHTS.
AND THAT'S THE BEST REASON FOR LIVING I'LL EVER FIND.
End